

**FY 2007 BUDGET TESTIMONY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JAMES C. DIPALA, JR., CHIEF OF STAFF**

Public Safety and Administration Sub-Committee  
House Appropriations Committee  
Delegate Joan Cadden, Chair  
February 16, 2006

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
Senator Ulysses Currie, Chair  
February 28, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee during today's budget review of the Office of the Governor. We would first like to commend Ms. Sprinkle for getting up to speed with her new assignments so quickly and for asking so many insightful questions during her review of our budget. As you have now seen, her analysis was quite straightforward and we are pleased, although not totally surprised, that it led her to the recommendation to adopt the Governor's Allowance for the Office without modification.

The Governor has directed that we continue to hold the line, and even slightly decrease, our staff resources in the Governor's Office, mindful of the fact that staffing costs represent over 86% of our budget. This brings our total authorized PIN and contractual employee count down by more than eight positions since taking office, and we have also held the line on the use of employees detailed to our Office from other State agencies. These sometimes-difficult actions have allowed us to address the critical staffing needs of the Governor within the funding available in the FY2007 Budget.

The Governor and the citizens of our State are fortunate to be served by a talented, energetic and devoted staff in the Governor's Office, most of whom put in many long hours each week. I am pleased to be here today representing both Governor Ehrlich and his staff and I am available to answer any questions that the Committee may have concerning this budget. Thank you.